REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application with all claims having been amended herein, no new matter has been added. Though not discussed in detail below, the dependent claims were amended herein to be placed in proper dependent form by replacing "A" with "The."

In the office action, claims 10-12 and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 101 as directed to unpatentable subject matter. In response these claims have been amended to conform with USPTO practice to recite a computer readable recording medium on which a computer program is stored. Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 17-29, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,901,519 to Stewart. Claims 3-4, 15-16, 30-31, and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Stewart in view of Stallings (Network and Internetwork Security). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons:

The instant claims are specifically directed to network security where a client is requesting data to be retrieved from for example a web-site. This is an entirely different process than that undergone in the email scenario of Stewart, thus it is submitted that the teachings of Stewart are not relevant to these claims.

Second, the instant claims have been amended to clarify the distinctions of the instant application to that of an email scenario. According to claim 1 as amended, the switch receives a request to retrieve an object. It is submitted that Stewart does not entail retrieving an object, rather in Stewart, an email is received by the email server, but no request for such an email is ever sent.

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In claim 1, the switch parses the file extension of the requested object compares a file extension of a requested object with a list of trusted file extensions. As Stewart never makes a request for a specific object, any comparison of data types in Stewart is not the same as in the instant claim. If the file extension is trusted, the request is sent to the server and only if not a trusted extension is the request sent on to the inspection gateway. As the vast number of requests are going to be for trusted file extension types, the workload on the inspection gateway is decreased. In contrast, in Stewart, every single email message is intercepted by the "gatekeeper" as described in col. 3, lines 28-45.

Next, after either further processing by the inspection gateway, or if a trusted file extension the request for the object is sent to the server and a reply from the server is received. This is recited in claim 5. In claim 5, the received response includes the requested object. This object, when received includes an indicator for content type. As recited in claim 5, the content type of the received object is compared to the file extension and only if they match is the object passed on to the client. The physical content of the object is not checked, only the content type, which is indicated as part of the reply from the server, for example as http: protocol.

It is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of Stewart do not teach such features, and particularly do not teach such features in the context of the instant claims, namely retrieving an object from, for example, a web site. Further, it is submitted that the cited portions of Stallings do overcome the shortcomings of Stewart. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-35, as amended, patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of Stewart whether used alone or in combination with Stallings and are allowable.

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In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance

which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: 101092-00071 (RADW 20.043)
NDW:cc

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